



OPEN M UPDATE

REJOICE AND BE GLAD

The joyous feelings of the holiday season and overwhelming support provided by you, our community of partners – volunteers, donors, staff and board members continue to be appreciated beyond words. As each and every one of us look forward to a tomorrow that is more normal, we must strive to live in the present.

By discerning on The Gospel of St. Luke, we can be encouraged and energized to “remember the past, plan for the future, but live for today.” What has been learned by all these past 11-months is that we are a resilient, steadfast and united community of people who believe and trust in the Lord. He walks with us each day and is there to help us learn the lessons needed to become the best we can be in sharing his message of unconditional love and the importance of helping one another.

As we live in the present, rejoice and be glad for all our blessings and the blessings we have bestowed on others. We know we are doing the work of our vision of helping those in need.

Learning to live in the present and also rejoicing and being glad for all our blessings helps us to be mindful and teaches us to pay attention to life, in the moment and live that moment to the fullest.

Blessings,

Christine R. Curry
CEO



HEALTH SERVICES

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CARE

"I found myself in a true life crisis spiraling into a deep depression. I knew better than to leave it alone, so I reached out to OPEN M. I have received amazing support from all the people working here," shares Mariah, OPEN M Health Services patient.

After her children had moved out of her house, Mariah began to neglect her health, attempting to take care of herself with natural remedies. Since her initial visit to OPEN M, she has been able to get her health back on track through vision, dental and general care.

"The services they provide are seemingly limitless," stated Mariah. "I believe most of the staff is volunteer and their manner is utterly true and heartfelt."

"I was highly embarrassed of my teeth...the dentist and assistant were very kind and understanding. They had extra time and cleaned my teeth for me. I felt amazing after that," shares Mariah with gratitude.

The following day, Mariah was able to get a new job. She sent notes of appreciation to our staff for giving her the care and confidence she needed to succeed.

Mariah's experience is reflective of many patients that have received care from OPEN M. Although each patient's experience may vary, the quality of care and support is consistent from our staff and volunteers.



FOOD SERVICES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

As we continue to push through the coronavirus pandemic, our Food Services team, along with the rest of the world, has had to adjust to a new way of life. As challenges arise, we continue to modify our procedures.

With your help, we have continued to make an impact on the community this year. Through a combination of food programs, we **served 670,751 pounds of food** that **fed 37,107 individuals** at a **value of \$1,246,255**.

Although challenges have been plentiful this year, so has your faithfulness to OPEN M. We look forward to the day when we can safely welcome you all back to OPEN M.

Board Member Spotlight: Dr. Carrie Caruso



"From a childhood of poverty, I am so very grateful for the opportunities I was given to pursue a bachelor's degree in laboratory medicine. A career of working in the hospital laboratory, while also teaching Microbiology and Chemistry at the college level followed. I first heard of OPEN M while working in the hospital laboratory - a colleague volunteered at OPEN M before coming to work on afternoon shifts. From that time, I knew that I too would help at OPEN M someday. Having always had a dream of returning to school to become a physician, I was blessed with the chance to do so at NEOMED. During both medical school and internal medicine residency at Summa, I had the honor to meet physicians who helped at OPEN M, reaffirming my goal to also help at OPEN M in the future.

As a teaching hospital physician, my mission is to teach residents to care for the 'whole patient'. I teach them to see each patient as a unique person with a wonderful story to tell. I teach them that each story is beautiful, but that this story can be sad, happy, terrifying, and amazing at the same time. My mission continues as I try to give, and teach residents to give, 'extra special care' to those patients whose social problems contributed to, or caused their hospital admission. Too frequently our patients not only have no insurance, but also no home, no food or shelter, and no family support. Our patients are also frequently suffering from substance abuse and psychiatric disorders. I teach residents to address all acute medical and psychiatric health issues in the hospital setting, while also teaching them to provide the safest possible discharge with regard to the social issues that impact our patients' health.

Although we can refer patients to our residency clinic for follow up, many patients cannot follow up as our clinic is not 'free' and does not supply free medication. Too often our patients cannot afford the reduced visit cost, and cannot pay for their medication as many patients do not have health insurance, have not yet received Medicaid insurance, or do not qualify for Medicaid insurance. OPEN M is such a valuable safety net for these patients.

I had to smile the other day when I read comments from my recent evaluations from residents...from disgruntled folks who seem to simply want to pass boards and move on to a specialty fellowship, 'focuses too much on the social issues', and from folks who seem to be on the path to becoming compassionate, caring physicians, 'teaches us to see the whole patient, including all the social issues that have affected patient's health'. I hope to not only support OPEN M's mission and vision, but to also teach my residents about OPEN M. Learning about OPEN M, guiding their patients to OPEN M as needed, will be an invaluable experience in their journey to becoming compassionate physicians."



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

FACING THE IMPOSSIBLE

When Keywanna and Chris Revell both found themselves unemployed during the middle of a global pandemic, the odds of finding steady income seemed insurmountable. Then, a visit to OPEN M changed it all.

Chris and Keywanna heard about OPEN M through multiple acquaintances. When they decided to give the Employment Services programs a try, they weren't disappointed. In fact, "OPEN M has been the most successful decision for us. The job workshops, food and other things OPEN M offered when we were in need holds a special place in our heart and means a lot to our family," said Keywanna.

Since completing the workshops, both Chris and Keywanna have been able to find meaningful employment so that they no longer have to worry about what the future holds.

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Sam Keller
by William and Sherry Oehlenschlager
Dr. John Kyle and Jean Kyle Fulcher
by Mary Ann Kyle
Janet Auman
by Ray Auman
William Brown
by Wendy Byers, Carla Dittman McBain, Margaret Erthal, Eileen Fallon, Maureen Glynn, Edward King, Betty Percy, Ralph Truax and Roberta Zimmerman

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

Nick Selle
by Jack and Kappy Vorona
Mike Richards
by Emma Richards
Christine Curry
by Louise Harvey
Fran Donovan
by Allen Zola
Molly Neubeck
by John and Nancy Riemenschneider
Barbara Jean Garvin
by Ben Garvin
Bob and Jennifer Dixon
by Douglas Savage
Ronald and Norma Swank
by Alison Thompson
Fazel and Rattansi Families
by Aliraza Rattansi
The Hudson and Canada Agnors
by Cappy and Mark Silver-Agnor
Kate Fulcher Kline and Kevin Kline, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Kyle, and Jean Kyle Fulcher
by Ned and Holly Kyle
Dr. Carrie Caruso
by Mitchel Fromm, David Gunnerson, Nancy Hooper, Ganesh Chaudhary, Rajesh Tampi, Lokesh Venkateshaiah, Daniel Wheeler, Anonymous, Sound Physicians and Mark Horattas
The Least of These - The Homeless & Marginalized
by Daniel Kirkpatrick
Ann Brennan, Frances Repetti, Sylvia Yankey, Karen Daverio, Alice Bergstrom, Judy Chumlea, Mary Ann Jackson and Janet DasVarma
by Jean Foust
Ann Brennan, Frances Repetti, Sylvia Yankey, Karen Daverio, Jean Faust, Judy Chumlea, Mary Ann Jackson and Janet DasVarma
by Alice Bergstrom
Ann Brennan, Frances Repetti, Sylvia Yankey, Karen Daverio, Jean Faust, Judy Chumlea, Mary Ann Jackson and Alice Bergstrom
by Janet DasVarma
Ann Brennan, Frances Repetti, Sylvia Yankey, Janet DasVarma, Jean Faust, Judy Chumlea, Mary Ann Jackson and Alice Bergstrom
by Karen Daverio
Ann Brennan, Karen Daverio, Sylvia Yankey, Janet DasVarma, Jean Faust, Judy Chumlea, Mary Ann Jackson and Alice Bergstrom
by Frances Repetti

"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

-Hebrews 11:1

CURRENT NEEDS

Welder: Our Food Services team is searching for a welder who can assist in fixing the wheels on our food carts that are vital to the Mountain of Food program. If you or anyone you know has the abilities and supplies, please contact j.carneal@openm.org or 330-434-0110 ext. 416.

Medical Clinic: The Medical Clinic is in need of automatic blood pressure cuffs, vitamin B12, vitamin D, an ultrasound machine and a chiropractic table. If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Health Services Coordinator, Tammy Hicks at t.hicks@openm.org or 330-434-0110 ext. 406.



A MINISTRY OF FAITH, HEALTH AND HOPE

941 Princeton St.
Akron, OH 44311

Return Service Requested

GIVE. PRAY. GO.

To sign up for any “give” or “go” opportunities, or for more information, visit www.openm.org or contact us at 330-434-0110 ext. 409.

January - February

GIVE Help support OPEN M during our most difficult months financially.

PRAY For a sense of peace for all those impacted by COVID-19.

GO Volunteer your organization, church or group to provide and serve a Hot Lunch this year.



GET YOUR

OPEN M APPAREL

WWW.BONFIRE.COM/STORE/OPEN-M/

When you purchase our apparel, a portion of your purchase will support the mission of OPEN M.



You can help break the cycle of poverty.

Please consider supporting OPEN M today because our community needs your help.

January through March are the most difficult months financially for OPEN M.

A gift of \$25 could provide six meals to hungry families. Thank you for considering joining us in the fight against poverty.

To give, please visit www.openm.org/donate or mail your gift to
941 Princeton St, Akron, OH 44311.